

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

MARGO PARKS,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 21-cv-656-pp

v.

ANDREW SAUL,

Defendant.

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED
WITHOUT PREPAYING THE FILING FEE (DKT. NO. 2)**

The plaintiff has filed a complaint seeking judicial review of a final administrative decision denying her claim for disability insurance benefits under the Social Security Act. Dkt. No. 1. She also filed a motion for leave to proceed without prepaying the filing fee. Dkt. No. 2.

To allow the plaintiff to proceed without paying the filing fee, the court first must decide whether the plaintiff can pay the fee; if not, it must determine whether the lawsuit is frivolous. 28 U.S.C. §§1915(a) and 1915(e)(2)(B)(i).

Based on the facts in the plaintiff's affidavit, the court concludes that she does not have the ability to pay the filing fee. The plaintiff's request indicates that she is not employed, she is not married, and she has three children, ages 5, 7 and 12, that she is responsible for supporting. Dkt. No. 2 at 1. The only income listed by the plaintiff is \$608 per month in W-2 T Income assistance and \$600 per month in Foodshare. Id. at 2. The plaintiff's monthly expenses

total \$1,219.50 (\$12.50 rent, \$200 WE Energies, \$800 groceries, \$75 cab/ride fare, \$80 toiletries, \$40 weekly bus pass, \$12 check cashing fee). Id. at 2-3.

The plaintiff does not own a car, her home or any other property of value and she has no cash on hand or in a checking or savings account. Id. at 3-4. The plaintiff states, “I am saving all leftovers to make and I run me and my clothes through the wash without soap sometimes to get by. I am roughly \$1,500.00 behind on rent. I am past due on my utilities.” Id. at 4. The plaintiff has demonstrated that she cannot pay the \$402 filing fee.

The next step is to determine whether the case is frivolous. A case is frivolous if there is no arguable basis for relief either in law or in fact. Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 31 (1992) (quoting Nietzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989); Casteel v. Pieschek, 3 F.3d 1050, 1056 (7th Cir. 1993)). A person may obtain district court review of a final decision of the Commissioner of Social Security. 42 U.S.C. §405(g). The district court must uphold the Commissioner’s final decision as long as the Commissioner used the correct legal standards and the decision is supported by substantial evidence. See Roddy v. Astrue, 705 F.3d 631, 636 (7th Cir. 2013).

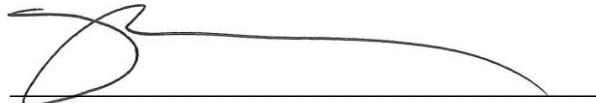
The plaintiff’s complaint indicates that she was denied Social Security benefits for lack of disability, that she is disabled, and that the conclusions and findings of fact by the Commissioner when denying benefits are not supported by substantial evidence and are contrary to law and regulation. Dkt. No. 1 at 1. At this early stage in the case, and based on the information in the plaintiff’s complaint, the court concludes that there may be a basis in law or in fact for

the plaintiff's appeal of the Commissioner's decision, and that the appeal may have merit, as defined by 28 U.S.C. §1915(e)(2)(B)(i).

The court **GRANTS** the plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed without prepaying the filing fee. Dkt. No. 2.

Dated in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this 27th day of May, 2021.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Pepper', written over a horizontal line.

HON. PAMELA PEPPER
Chief United States District Judge